EXHIBIT A

JEFF FINE Clerk of the Superior Court By Fawn Fowler, Deputy. Date 03/22/2022 Time 16:56:35 Asount Description ----- CASE# CV2022-003548 -----William M. Fischbach, SBN# 019769 333.00 CIVIL NEW COMPLAINT David M. Barlow, SBN# 035812 TIFFAN Y& BOSCO TOTAL AHOUNT 333.00 Receipt# 28687237 SEVENTH FLOOR CAMELBACK ESPLANADE II 2525 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85016-4237 TELEPHONE: (602) 255-6000 5 FACSIMILE: (602) 255-0103 EMAIL: wmf@tblaw.com, dmb@tblaw.com 7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA 10 CV 2022~003548 L.M.W., individually, and as the biological 11 father and on behalf of L.W., a minor, Case No. 12 COMPLAINT Plaintiff, 13 14 Gross Negligence VS. Willful and Wanton 15 THE STATE OF ARIZONA; JONAS PERRY Conduct/Negligence and Jane Doe Perry, Husband and Wife; Loss of Consortium 16 ANITA MCDONALD and JOHN DOE • Civil Rights Violations, 42 U.S.C. 17 MCDONALD, Wife and Husband; ANNA § 1983 APOLINAR and JOHN DOE APOLINAR, 18 Wife and Husband; CHRISTINA GARY and TIER 3 JOHN DOE GARY, Wife and Husband; 19 BRITTANY SCOTT-MEMBRILA and JOHN 20 DOE MEMBRILA, Wife and Husband; SONYA TYUS and JAMES TYUS, Wife and 21 Husband; A NEW LEAF, INC., and Arizona 22 nonprofit corporation, 23 Defendant, 24 Introduction 25 This is a case about the government's removal of a child from his father's 1. 26 home through the use of material misrepresentations, mischaracterizations, inaccuracies, 27 and false statements, and its subsequent failure to protect the child from sexual abuse after 28

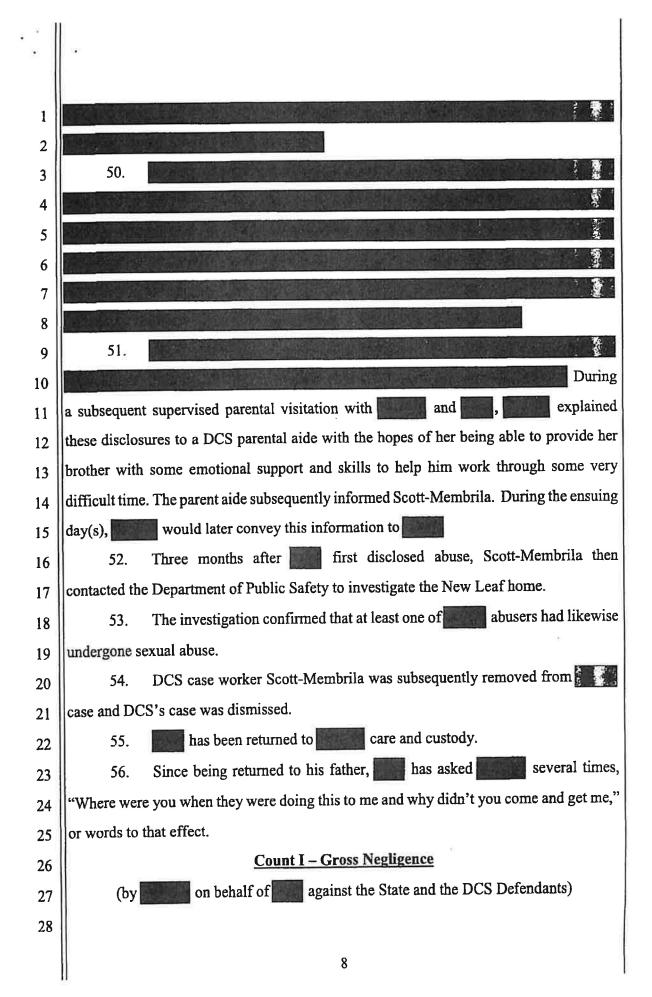
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1	23. In the application, Perry represented that probable cause existed to believe
2	that was suffering from abuse or neglect and that it would be contrary for to
3	remain in home because her "behavior is violent, erratic, unpredictable,
4	incoherent, and totally inappropriate and is a threat to ['s] safety."
5	24. As for Perry claimed he was a suspected drug trafficker and was
6	aware of criminal activity but—despite the court order setting parenting time—
7	failed to "take protective action over [the child]." These statements were false and without
8	factual support. is not a drug trafficker and, although would occasionally
9	smoke marijuana in his home, he was a medical marijuana card-holder and did not smoke
0	marijuana in presence and stored his marijuana on a high shelf so that could
1	not access it.
.2	25. Perry found less intrusive options neither feasible nor sufficient to manage
3	safety, primarily because had refused to cooperate with DCS. But in
4	Perry's view, placing the child in custody was not an option because his "only
5	support is his mother," who Perry claimed had help "break the terms of his past
6	probation." This statement was false and without factual support. mother,
7	, has no criminal history nor has she assisted in violating any
8	probationary terms.
9	26. Perry further claimed that would show up to school high off of
20	marijuana from" . These statements were false and without factual support.
21	Presumably referring to Perry concluded that does not recognize safety
22	threats for but leaves him in situations that endanger him."
23	27. On December 9, 2020, DCS filed a dependency petition alleging that,
24	despite its diligent efforts, it had been unable to locate to take the child into
25	temporary custody.
26	28. The petition stated that told DCS that was with ,
27	however, none of the addresses she provided were and "he has not returned
28	messages left on his phone."

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1	on back. Despite bringing this to DCS's attention, DCS never contacted				
2	with information about the investigation.				
3	44. DCS caseworker Gary, herself a mandatory reporter, was made aware of the				
4	scratches and potential abuse, but likewise failed to make any investigation or take any				
5	corrective action.				
6	45. Only later did DCS's child advocate, Sarah Bruce ("Bruce"), report that the				
7	DCS caseworker assigned to case, Scott-Membrila, had deemed the scratches on				
8	back not to be an ongoing issue.				
9	46. On February 4, 2021, informed Bruce that he had heard reports that				
0	had made disclosures regarding molestation and abuse. Scott-Membrila then				
1	informed him that this had been noted in the rapid response assessment conducted on				
2	December 21, 2020 but that there was no evidence of abuse. In other words, Scott-				
3	Membrila assured that there was nothing to worry about at this stage.				
4	47. Scott-Membrila's assurances did not hold for long. On March 19, 2021,				
5	(""), the paternal aunt with whom was recently placed,				
6	contacted the DCS hotline to report that had made disclosures of abuse concerning				
7	his time in foster care. Specifically, reported experiencing sexual abuse at the hands				
.8	of another juvenile at the home. The next day, explained these disclosures to a				
9	DCS parental aide who then informed Scott-Membrila. would later convey this				
20	information to				
21	48. Specifically, reported experiencing sexual abuse at the hands of				
22	another juvenile ("Child 1") at the foster home. reported that Child 1 at the house				
23	had				
24	L.W. reported that this occurred on multiple occasions in multiple places in the house.				
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1	Count II - Willful and Wanton Conduct/Negligence			
2	(by on behalf of against A New Leaf and Tyus)			
3	65. A New Leaf and Tyus assumed an affirmative duty and assumed			
4	responsibility for safety and general well-being by taking into their custody.			
5	66. A New Leaf and Tyus knew or should have known that faced an			
6	unreasonable risk of sexual abuse and it was substantially likely that such abuse would			
7	occur.			
8	67. Despite the risks, A New Leaf and Tyus failed to act despite knowing, or			
9	having reason to know, facts which would lead a reasonable person to realize that their			
10	conduct not only create an unreasonable risk of bodily harm to others but also involved a			
11	high probability that substantial harm will result.			
12	68. As a result of the conduct of A New Leaf and Tyus, has suffered			
13	physical, mental, and emotional trauma, some of which may be permanent in nature, and			
14	that will likely require future counseling and other treatment.			
15	69. is entitled to an award of punitive damages against A New Leaf and			
16	Tyus because they acted willfully, maliciously, and with an evil mind, or with reckless			
17	disregard to the substantial possibility that their actions would cause injury to others.			
18	70. In the alternative, if the conduct of A New Leaf and Tyus does not rise to			
19	the level of willful and wanton conduct, this Count is pled in the alternative as negligence.			
20	Count III - Loss of Consortium			
21	(by against the State, the DCS Defendants, A New Leaf, and Tyus)			
22	71. As biological father, holds a derivative loss of consortium			
23	claim relative to Count I and Count II.			
24	72. When all the underlying elements of the child's tort claims are present, the			
25	parent possesses a loss of consortium claim to compensate the parent for the loss of love,			
26	affection, protection, support, services, companionship, care, and society of the child.			
27	73. In this case, suffered a severe, permanent and/or disabling injury			
00	rendering that significantly demaged the child-parent relationship			

74. As a result of the conduct of Tyus and A New Leaf, has suffered					
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mental and emotional trauma, some of which may be permanent in nature, and that will					
likely require future counseling and other treatment.					
Count IV - 42 U.S.C. 1983 Civil Rights Claim					
(by individually and on behalf of against the DCS Defendants)					
75. 42 U.S.C. § 1983, provides a cause of action for the deprivation of any					
rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws by any person acting					
under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, or any State or					
Territory.					
76. Parents and children have a well-established right to live together free from					
governmental interference without due process of law.					
77. The right has both a substantive and procedural component.					
78. State officials may interfere with this right only when they provide parents					
with fundamentally fair procedures. They cannot seize children and make them wards of					
the state without first pursuing reasonable avenues of investigation.					
79. Further, the intrusion into the parent-child relationship must be reasonably					
necessary to avert a specific injury to the child. These are indispensable requirements					
absent reasonable cause to believe the child is in imminent danger of a serious bodily					
injury.					
80. The due process clause of the United States Constitution also contains a					
substantive component, sometimes referred to as "substantive due process," which bars					
certain arbitrary government actions regardless of the fairness of the procedures used to					
implement them. Thus, substantive due process guards against affirmative abuse of					
government power that shocks the conscience.					
81. As set forth above, the conduct of the DCS Defendants violated the					
substantive and procedural due process rights of both					

- 82. Even if not deliberate, state officials are liable—and not entitled to the shield of qualified immunity—for false statements submitted to court they know to be false or would have known were false but for their reckless disregard of the truth.
- Nevertheless, Perry submitted false statements to the court during the proceedings discussed above, including without limitation that (1) was a drug trafficker; (2) mother had helped violate his parole; (3) knew had been exposed to illegal drugs—even presenting to school with marijuana in his hair—but did not have any problems with that behavior; and (4) did not cooperate with DCS. Further, Arizona's litigation privilege does not operate to bar federal civil rights claims.
- 84. Upon information and belief, Perry would later admit these statements were false.
- 85. These statements had significant consequences. would never have presented to the foster home had qualified for placement.
- Additionally, the conduct of the DCS Defendants was conscience-shocking. 86. In addition to Perry's misrepresentations in the dependency proceedings, the DCS and her husband could serve Defendants did not explore whether or as a guardian for In their apparent zeal to separate from his family no matter what, the DCS Defendants failed to conduct an adequate investigation and then made misrepresentations in court to achieve that end. Despite frequently writing to the DCS Defendants to explain his willingness to take drug tests and whatever classes were necessary, the DCS Defendants also delayed in providing him with reunification services. continually raised concerns about the conditions in the New And even though Leaf home—including the significant scratches on back—the DCS Defendants did not even investigate what occurred there until several months after the fact. They failed to do so despite the child's disclosures on December 21, 2020. That failure to act shocks the conscience such that it violates substantive due process.

- 87. The Fourteenth Amendment's substantive due process clause also protects the liberty interest of children in state custody in social worker supervision and protection from harm inflicted by a third party for the duration of that custody.
- 88. In that context, deliberate indifference requires a showing of an objectively substantial risk of harm and a showing that the officials were subjectively aware of facts from which an inference could be drawn' that such a risk existed and that either the official actually drew the inference or that a reasonable official would have been compelled to draw that inference.
- 89. The DCS Defendants violated their duty to protect from harm for the duration of time as a ward of the state. To reiterate, made disclosures of abuse on December 21, 2020. None of the DCS Defendants conducted any reasonable follow up investigation on those disclosures. When later raised the fact that there were extensive scratches running down back, the DCS Defendants dismissed his fatherly concern for physical safety because it was deemed not to be an ongoing issue.
- 90. As a result of the conduct of the DCS Defendants, and have suffered mental and emotional trauma, some of which may be permanent in nature, and that will likely require future counseling and other treatment.
- 91. is entitled to an award of punitive damages against the DCS Defendants because they acted willfully, maliciously, and with an evil mind, or with reckless disregard to the substantial possibility that their actions would cause injury to others.
- 92. As to this Count, and and seek and award of costs and attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

Count V - 42 U.S.C. 1983 Civil Rights Claim Against Private Parties

(by individually and on behalf of against Tyus and A New Leaf)

- 42 U.S.C. liability extends to a private party where the private party engaged in state action under color of law and thereby deprived a plaintiff of some right, privilege, or immunity protected by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.
- The liability is not limited to individuals. In a Monell claim, a plaintiff may seek redress against a private entity that deprived the plaintiff of his or her constitutional rights if the entity's policy, practice, or custom was responsible for the asserted
- Monell liability can be premised on a failure to train that amounts to
- Deliberate indifference requires a showing that the entity defendant disregarded a known or obvious consequence of its actions. A pattern of prior violations is not required to demonstrate deliberate indifference; rather, Monell liability is proper when the unconstitutional consequences of a failure to train are patently obvious and
- It is a tragic reality of the foster care system that many of the children have been abused and may face abuse at the hands of other children once inside that system.
- Given that, the need to adequately train individuals to take precautions to identify and prevent abuse, and to thoroughly investigate disclosures of abuse, is
- Despite this environment, and in the face of reports of the abuse suffered by A New Leaf and Sonya Tyus took no such acts at all. Under the circumstances, the consequences of the failure to train are so obvious that they are deliberately indifferent to
- have 100. As a result of the conduct of A New Leaf and Tyus, and suffered mental and emotional trauma, some of which may be permanent in nature, and that will likely require future counseling and other treatment.

1	101.	is entitled to an award of punitive damages against A New Leaf and		
2	Tyus because they acted willfully, maliciously, and with an evil mind, or with reckless			
3	disregard to the substantial possibility that their actions would cause injury to others.			
4	102.	As to this Count, and seek and award of costs and attorneys'		
5	fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988.			
6	PRAYER FOR RELIEF			
7	Plaintiffs requests judgment against Defendants as follows:			
8	A.,	For compensatory special and general damages for Plaintiff's personal		
9	injuries, pair	and suffering, and mental anguish, both past and future;		
10	В.	For Plaintiff's taxable costs pursuant to A.R.S. §12-341;		
11	C.	For punitive damages;		
12	D.	For an award of costs and attorneys' fees under 42 U.S.C. § 1988; and		
13	E.	For such other relief as is appropriate.		
14	RESF	PECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 22ND day of March, 2022.		
15		TIFFANY& BOSCO		
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17		Ву:		
18		William M. Fischbach		
19		David M. Barlow		
20		Seventh Floor Camelback Esplanade II 2525 East Camelback Road		
21		Phoenix, Arizona 85016 Attorneys for Plaintiff		
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